

Art Unit: 3763

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Conventionally, to extracorporeally circulate ~~the~~ blood during hemodialysis, a method, with which two medical puncture needles of 14 to 19 gauge having a sharp tip ~~is~~ are inserted into so-called blood accesses provided in a patient's arm for securing routes for the arterial side and for the venous side, ~~and through a blood circuit including these routes,~~ for drawing the blood out of the body through a blood circuit including these routes has been widely used.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- However, with conventional medical puncture needles 1, 2, 5, as described above, a thick needle of 14 to 19 ~~gauge~~ gauge in ~~size~~ diameter size is used in order to secure the blood flow rate required for hemodialysis (200 to 300 ml/mm), and thus there is a problem that the patient is forced to endure the pains involved in creating a puncture (boring pains) at every dialysis session carried out two or three times a week, for example. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- When the medical needle is used, the inner needle is inserted into the outer tube needle to be ~~as if they were~~ an integral part, and as the inner needle is inserted into a punctured hole previously formed ~~of~~ in the living tissue from the spherical crown portion provided at the tip

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thereof, as described above, the outer tube needle is also inserted into the blood vessel, passing through the punctured hole, together with the inner needle. Thereafter, the outer tube needle is retained as it is, and the inner needle alone is removed from the outer tube needle for allowing the outer tube needle to be used as a flow passage for a blood circuit. Said inner needle may be formed in ~~the shape of~~ a solid rod-like shape over the entire length thereof, or said inner needle may be formed to have a through hole substantially passing through the axis over the entire length thereof. --